

Appl. No. 09/135,180
Amdt. Dated June 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0179

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application, with claims 5-20 having been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claim 1 is being amended to improve its form. No new matter is involved. Entry of the Amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as placing the Application in condition for allowance or alternatively in better form for appeal, and reconsideration and allowance in view thereof, are respectfully requested.

As previously pointed out by Applicant, and in accordance with the present invention, in a first image pickup operation, the first set of light receiving elements in the image pickup section accumulates electric charges in accordance with incident light, while the second set of light receiving elements in the image pickup section does not accumulate electric charges. In this manner, a thinned-out image signal can be obtained before performing frame transfer to the storage section.

In contrast, the image signal in Parulski is not thinned out before performing frame transfer to the storage section. Electric charges corresponding to several lines are eliminated by the fast dump structure 62 after performing frame transfer to the storage section.

Therefore, structures in accordance with the invention are substantially different from those of Parulski. Parulski does not disclose or suggest a structure wherein electric charges are eliminated directly from picture elements.

Claim 1 is being amended to improve its form. As so amended, claim 1 defines a solid-state image pickup device "wherein the electric charges generated in the second set of light receiving elements are directly discharged from the second set of light receiving elements to the semiconductor substrate in the first image pickup operation". Therefore, claim 1 is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the attempted combination of Kazui and Parulski.

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Claims 2 and 3 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and contain all of the limitations thereof. Therefore, claims 2 and 3 are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art.

Claim 4 depends from and further defines claim 1 in terms of the difference in impurity concentrations between a channel for the first set of light receiving elements P1 and a channel for the second set of light receiving elements P2. Neither of the light receiving elements P1 or P2 corresponds to a horizontal transfer channel.

Therefore, the present invention as defined in claim 4 is unrelated to the configuration of Takahashi, which provides a difference in impurity concentrations between vertical and horizontal transfer channels. Claim 4 is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the attempted combination of Kazui, Parulski and Takahashi.

In conclusion, claim 1 as amended herein and claims 2-4 which depend therefrom are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, entry of the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as placing the Application in condition for allowance or alternatively in better form for appeal, and reconsideration and allowance in view thereof, are respectfully requested.

The foregoing amendments comply were not earlier presented because they are in response to the matters pointed out for the first time in the Final Office Action. Admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a) as presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los

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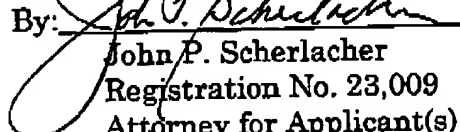
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Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6842 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: June 12, 2003

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